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Bethel, that he gave a new, ingenious, and humane meaning to the word "Contraband," that he went to Hatteras, Ship Island, and New Orleans, that he governed New Orleans with a strong hand, protected it against yellow-fever, published the famous "Woman Order," and was accused of making a fortune there. We wish that Mr. Parton had treated this matter of alleged irregular gain with more fulness, and especially with more dignity. There is a flippancy in a sentence of his on page 584, which is inappropriate to such a subject.

Here we must leave this book, cordially commending it to the public, as always interesting, generally satisfactory. It confirms our belief that General Butler is a far-seeing, foreseeing man; that he is energetic, manly, patriotic, and able; and that he deserves the confidence as well as the gratitude of his country.

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2. — *Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg.* BY M. JACOBS, Professor of Mathematics and Chemistry in Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1864. 12mo. pp. 47.

IN this little book Professor Jacobs has made a modest but valuable contribution to the history of our civil war. As a resident at Gettysburg, and actually there during the contests of the three days, he has a familiar and minute acquaintance with the topography of the battle, which adds uncommon weight to his statements. The absence, too, of all attempt to eke out his own knowledge with second-hand information which he could not verify, — though it gives a somewhat dry and meagre tone to his story, — renders it all the more trustworthy. The addition of a map founded on actual measurements enhances the merit of the book, and makes it a useful companion to other narratives of the great fight. We wish, indeed, that the author had enlarged his circle, and in a second map laid down the interesting points in Adams County and in that part of Maryland through which the opposing armies advanced towards Gettysburg. In the limited chart which he has furnished, the roads are so soon cut off, that they convey but a poor idea of what is almost as essential as the scene of the combat itself; namely, the relation of the battle to previous and to subsequent movements. Should Professor Jacobs, in another edition, have an opportunity to insert such a map, he might also do his readers good service by giving an exact table of distances in Pennsylvania and Maryland; — a point in which extemporary newspaper plans are sometimes provokingly deficient. We miss, in his otherwise excellent chart, a numerical state-

ment of the elevation of the ridges and hills within the circuit of the immediate operations of the battle. A few figures of this kind greatly help a reader to understand how and in what degree one station commands another ;— a simple thing, which solves many difficulties. Another slight omission is that of the names of those streets of the town which he mentions in the text, but which must be conjecturally traced by their geographical titles and the connection in which they are introduced.

Professor Jacobs has done his work so well, that we wish he had been less modest about it. He might have described the whole surrounding region with greater accuracy than would be possible for a casual visitor. This would have made an apt introduction to his immediate subject. His own familiarity with the environs of Gettysburg has probably led him to underrate the ignorance of his readers. But, in justice to him, we ought not to forget that his book professes to be only "Notes" of the invasion and battle, and that it is free from all taint of that exaggeration to which our journalists have accustomed us, and of which foreign readers reasonably complain.

This unpretending volume does not affect to be more than one contribution to the history of this momentous battle ; and it is to be hoped that, before the freshness of recollection has worn off, some one will undertake the task of writing its history, who can bring to it a quick eye, a ready pen, good taste, and an aptitude for gathering up the scattered traits of professional and local anecdote with which all such occasions abound, and to which unmilitary readers owe much of what impression they ever get of so confused and confusing a scene. The material is already rich ; but it needs to be carefully collected, and still more carefully sifted. Instances of special heroism, the slight turns and changes of the fight, the alternations of hope and doubt (we will not say, fear), and all the thousand suggestive trifles that are no trifles, must fall into place about the central action. The horrors of the day should be strongly drawn, that a wholesome dread of civil war may be registered in the hearts of this people, and that daring men may not again deem it a light thing to melt down a nation's identity in the pit of discontent. All the noble and beautiful, all the harsh and rugged elements of the hour, should be scrupulously recorded. The difficulty of writing a good account of a battle is proverbial. The difficulty of understanding the best account, if you have not seen the ground, ought to be proverbial, that the historian may do complete justice to the ignorance of his reader. He must assume that it is total. He should lay hold of every circumstance which will take the reader to the spot and hold him there. The art of taking instantaneous photographs, it would seem, might be turned to excellent

account. When the smoke lifts, one such glimpse would reveal more than a page of narrative. And every picture should be dated to the hour and minute. Who does not know that even the stock illustrations, which fit Waterloo, Solferino, and Gettysburg alike, though they tell nothing of the battle in question, do yet quicken, in a rude way, the conception of a scene of violence to which our every-day life offers no analogy? Replace these by actual pictures or copies of them, and you render a lasting service to history. For weeks after the battle of Gettysburg, the striking line of breastworks on the right wing remained almost untouched; and before the natural turn of the leaf, the trees in that valley were blighted at the extremities, so that far away you might track a part of the line of fight by the premature color of the leaves. It is not an American exaggeration to say, that in one spot the woods looked as if a tempest of fire had swept over them. Art might have done much (may perhaps have done much) to preserve these effects. The scenery about Little Round Top, and particularly the wild mass of rocks opposite, among which more than one victim found his grave, are permanent monuments, which ought to be exactly copied. And, indeed, the whole site of the battle is so peculiar, that, half a century hence, a well-read traveller, provided with such assistances, might succeed in tracing with tolerable certainty from end to end the fortunes of those critical days.

Among the lesser sources of the history of the Gettysburg fight, we would call attention to a very brief pamphlet styled "Three Weeks at Gettysburg," which can be read in a few minutes, but will compare in interest with anything which has been written about the battle. It is a sketch (and only a sketch) of the hospital life of those benevolent nurses who hastened to bear to the sufferers their gentle sympathy and their generous care.

3. — *History of the Sioux War and Massacres of 1862 and 1863.* By ISAAC V. D. HEARD. With Portraits and Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1863. 12mo. pp. 354.

THE more appropriate title for this book would have been simply, "The Sioux Massacres,"—massacres perpetrated on the Sioux as well as by them. The deeds of blood committed by both red men and white men, in the summer and autumn of 1862, were a war in no proper sense, but from the beginning to the end of the struggle a series of merciless butcheries. We shudder as we read the narrative of the horrible and shameful occurrences of those dreadful months. Lieutenant Heard, the author and compiler of the book before us, was